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Game Day Kaimin, September 6, 2014

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GAMEDAY KAIMIN

#37



GRIZ HOST WILDCATS IN HOME OPENER

SEABORN LARSON
Montana Kaimin

Last week's season opener was about a fresh Grizzlies team with little experience. This week will be about proving they learned last week's lesson.

The Griz will get the chance Saturday, when Montana (0-1) welcomes the Central Washington University Wildcats (0-0) back to Washington-Grizzly Stadium for the first home game of the season.

The programs have faced off only once before, in 2008. Montana took a 38-35 win over the Division II team in the final 18 seconds behind a 42-yard field goal by Brody McKnight.

But that was a different team, one of many differences the Griz will have to adjust to coming off a 17-12 loss to the Wyoming Cowboys on Aug. 30.

"It's vastly different than last week," Montana defensive end Zack Wagenmann said. "This week it sounds like they're going to spread out the field and go tempo on us, so we have to change gears."

Junior Kendrick Van Ackeren pulled in a career-high 14

tackles last week in his debut at linebacker, while Montana held Wyoming to just 26 passing yards. Wagenmann grabbed two sacks and seven tackles, and junior linebacker Jeremiah Kose had seven tackles and an interception.

They'll lead Montana's defense against a team that averaged 24.1 points a game in 2013.

They'll also have to adjust to a different coach — Ian Shoemaker, the brand-new skipper for the Wildcats. Previously the offensive coordinator at St. Cloud State University, he helped take the team to three of the last four D-II national championships. Now, he's kicking off his tenure at CWU with a trip to Missoula.

"Historically, Central Washington has been an excellent Division II football team," head coach Mick Delaney said. "But we don't know a lot about them."

Delaney does know CWU has a handful of returning starters from their 7-4 campaign in 2013, including five players on the defensive side. Junior cornerback Isaiah Davis was named first-team preseason All-American by D2football.



Photo Courtesy of Tommy Martino

Shay Smithwick-Hann (19) prepares to pass the ball against Oklahoma Panhandle State University Aggies. The University of Montana Grizzlies breezed past the Aggies 47-14 on Sept. 22, 2013 in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

com, after leading the Wildcats with 42 sacks last season.

To prepare, Montana has taken a similar approach as it took with Wyoming: not by watching game tape on the opponent, but its coach's last team (Wyoming coach Craig Bohl moved from

North Dakota State last year). It appeared effective enough to limit Wyoming to 17 points, and allowed senior running back Travon Van a career-high nine catches for 66 yards.

"Travon, being an excellent athlete, we're using him in a lot

of places," Delaney said. "In the inside as a running back, on the outside as a receiver and in motion as a receiver. You always want to get the ball in the playmaker's hands."

See PREVIEW, page 8

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HEAD TO HEAD

Breaking down Montana and Central Washington by position

KOLBY KICKINGWOMAN
Montana Kaimin

Coming off a 17-12 loss at Wyoming, the Montana Grizzlies (0-1) look to bounce back against the Central Washington University Wildcats (0-0) in the home opener at Washington-Grizzly Stadium. Here is a head-to-head breakdown of both teams:

COACHING STAFF

University of Montana head coach Mick Delaney is entering his third year at the helm, and coming off a 10-3 playoff season where the Griz lost in the first round of the playoffs to Coastal Carolina 42-35.

On the other hand, Ian Shoe-maker is a first year head coach

for CWU and is revamping the offense, implementing an entirely new system.

Advantage: Montana

QUARTERBACK

The quarterbacks in this game are both dual-threats — they can run and throw. In 2013, redshirt senior Jordan Johnson threw for over 3,300 yards with 32 touchdowns, while only giving up five interceptions. Johnson's ability to extend the play outside the pocket and throw on the run makes him all the tougher to prepare for.

Sophomore Jake Nelson didn't start until the third game last year for the Wildcats, but still managed to put up decent numbers, completing 62 percent of his passes for 1,282 yards and rushing for another

261. Nelson is learning a brand new offense, while Johnson is very comfortable in his.

Advantage: Montana

RUNNING BACKS

The Griz have an established backfield with seniors Jordan Canada and Travon Van. They combined for 1,585 rushing yards and 22 touchdowns last season — and that's just on the ground. Add their pass-catching abilities and these two become quite formidable for the Grizzly offense, despite being held to just 29 yards combined against Wyoming.

The Wildcats have a stud of their own, junior Jordan Todd, who was second in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) in rushing with 1,213 rushing yards and nine

touchdowns in 2013. His backup, junior Arthur Burns, is making his debut after transferring from Washington State and sitting out last year.

Canada and Van are more proven than their counterparts, giving the Griz a hand up on the opposition.

Advantage: Montana

WIDE RECEIVERS

Out wide, the Griz have some playmakers, but much depends on the health and availability of top receiver Ellis Henderson. Last season, Henderson exploded for 1,008 yards receiving and 14 touchdowns, but has been hindered by a bacterial infection and should only see 10-20 plays. Other returning pass catchers include redshirt junior Jamaal Jones and senior tight end Mitch Saylor. The emergence of redshirt freshman Josh Janssen could bode well for the Grizzlies. Janssen caught the first touchdown of the season last week against Wyoming on a wide receiver reverse that put the Griz up 6-3 before half-time.

The Wildcats have a more inexperienced group. Last year's top receiver Jesse Zalk, who had 47 catches for 429 yards, is only a sophomore. Along with fellow sophomore Kent McKinney Jr. and senior Greg Logan, the trio combined for a mere 75 catches for 812 yards and four touchdowns last season. With

all members of CWU's offense learning a new system, it may be difficult to mesh in their season opener.

Advantage: Montana

OFFENSIVE LINE

The battle in the trenches is one of the more important matchups of the game, and Montana is working to replace three starters who left for the NFL, while Central Washington also lost three starters and will try a new scheme for the first time. It's a test where both coaches can gauge where their offensive line stands.

Advantage: Toss up

DEFENSIVE LINE

The Grizzly defensive front four might be their strongest asset. Anchored by defensive end Zach Wagenmann, the Griz defensive line is aggressive in getting after the quarterback. Along with Tonga Takai and Tyrone Holmes, the trio combined for 13.5 sacks and 25 tackles for loss last season.

The Wildcats return two starters from last year's defensive line: junior Tovar Sanchez, who was named second-team All-GNAC last year and Carson Kass, who recorded only five tackles in all of the 2013 season. Experience trumps youth on this side of the trenches.

Advantage: Montana

See MATCHUP, page 7

FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 6, 2014

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Some daily activities
- 7 Restored vigor to, in a way
- 15 Big Sur retreat
- 16 Chef's assortment
- 17 Philosopher de Beauvoir
- 18 1992 Michelle Pfeiffer role
- 19 Wright-Patterson, e.g.: Abbr.
- 20 Certain laundry load
- 22 "This is just _"
- 23 Titicaca feeders
- 25 Forest mom
- 26 Turning points
- 27 _ Lodge
- 29 "Fats" Waller piano style
- 31 Gang leader of old comics
- 33 Trick
- 37 Goethe's "The _-King"
- 38 To begin with
- 40 Yvette, e.g.
- 41 Soup vegetable
- 43 Stewed
- 45 "Free," in "land of the free"
- 47 Wheat used in health food
- 48 Gets clean
- 51 19th/20th-century civil rights leader — B. Wells
- 53 Marching band?
- 54 On the wrong side (of)
- 55 Ceremonial lineup
- 57 Disallow
- 58 Common ore of mercury
- 60 Pin down
- 62 Form a union
- 63 Sees the light, maybe
- 64 Like many sales
- 65 Devote, as time

DOWN

- 1 1962 Crystals album with cover art of a biker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15						16							
17						18							
19				20		21			22				
23			24		25			26					
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37				38					39		40		
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64								65					

By Don Gagliardo

9/6/14

Friday's Puzzle Solved

T	O	A	N	D	F	R	O	B	A	S	K	S
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N	U	D	E	S	N	O	W	Y	J	O	W	L
S	P	A	E	L	O	O	D	E	H	E	T	
		S	N	I	P	E	S	C	A	D	S	
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M	I	N	T	S	P	O	P	I	N	J	A	S
E	N	E	M	Y	I	N	A	S	T	A	T	E
S	I	R	E	N	T	O	O	L	S	H	E	D

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9/6/14

- 34 Cook poorly, in a way
- 35 Ideal pairing
- 36 1980s-'90s Richard Mulligan sitcom
- 39 Age abbr.
- 42 Hawaiian priests
- 44 AQL monitor
- 46 California city near Bakersfield
- 48 Salad bar items
- 49 Burning
- 50 Pacific island nation
- 52 Grover's 1890s vice president
- 55 Troubled Mideast region
- 56 Ready to grow
- 59 Garbage holder
- 61 James, again, briefly

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GRIZZLIES

- 1 Treshawn Favors, Running Back, Glendale, Ariz.
2 Taylor Walcott, Wide Receiver/Returner, Eugene, Ore.
2 Ryan McKinley, Cornerback, Anthem, Ariz.
3 Eric Johnson, Safety, San Francisco, Calif.
3 Brady Guftason, Quarterback, Billings, Mont.
4 Chris Parker, Cornerback, Sioux Falls, S.D.
4 Nate Hanser, Utility, Broadview, Mont.
5 Chase Naccarato, Wide Receiver, Spokane, Wash.
5 Daniel Sullivan, Kicker, Mill Creek, Wash.
6 Tyrel Garner, Cornerback, Henderson, Nev.

6 Jamaal Jones, Wide Receiver, Spanaway, Wash.

- 7 Ellis Henderson, Wide Receiver/Returner, Portland, Ore.

8 Travon Van, Running Back, San Diego, Calif.

- 8 Manu Rasmussen, Safety, Tigard, Ore.
9 Addison Owen, Defensive End, Vancouver, Wash.
9 Carl Johnson, Running Back, Hardin, Mont.
10 Jordan Johnson, Quarterback, Eugene, Ore.
11 Tristen Clark, Wide Receiver, Deer Lodge, Mont.
11 Nate Harris, Cornerback, Chino, Calif.
12 Sean Foley, Wide Receiver, Whitefish, Mont.
12 Matt Hermanson, Safety, Sioux Falls, SD
13 Josh Janssen, Wide Receiver, Missoula, Mont.
14 Joshua Dennard, Cornerback, Phoenix, Ariz.
16 Marq Rogers, Wide Receiver, Fort Wayne, Ind.
17 Makena Simis, Quarterback, Boise, Idaho
18 JR Nelson, Cornerback, Hacienda Heights, Calif.
19 Shay Smithwick-Hann, Quarterback, Kalispell, Mont.
21 Joey Counts, Running Back, Mesa, Ariz.
23 Caleb Lyons, Wide Receiver, Lakewood, Wash.
24 Lorenzo Logwood, Running Back, Oakland, Calif.
25 Shane Moody, Cornerback, Parker, Colo.
26 Jordan Canada, Running Back, West Covina, Calif.
27 Nico Graham, Wide Receiver, Missoula, Mont.

- 28 Jamaal Anderson, Safety, Fontana, Calif.
29 Connor Strahm, Linebacker, Eugene, Ore.
30 Evan Epperly, Safety, Kalispell, Mont.
31 Justin Whitted, Safety, Los Angeles, Calif.
32 Zach Vis, Linebacker, Lynden, Wash.
33 Connor Lebsock, Linebacker, Billings, Mont.
34 Jamal Wilson, Fullback, Fontana, Calif.

35 Kendrick Van Ackeren, Linebacker, Bellevue, Wash.

- 36 Herbert Gamboa, Linebacker, San Clemente, Calif.
37 Zack Wagenmann, Defensive End, Missoula, Mont.
38 John Nguyen, Running Back, Seattle, Wash.
39 Jake Dalleres, Safety, Butte, Mont.
40 Cooper Sprunk, Tight End, Tigard, Ore.
41 Mick Delaney, Safety, Bozeman, Mont.
42 Josh Buss, Linebacker, Boise, Idaho
43 Nate Bradley, Nose Guard, Billings, Mont.
44 Caleb Kidder, Defensive Tackle, Helena, Mont.
45 Jeremiah Kose, Linebacker, Oceanside, Calif.
46 Austin Chadderdon, Fullback, Couer d'Alene, Idaho
47 Derek Crittenden, Defensive End, Whitefish, Mont.
48 Riley Kack, Fullback, Bozeman, Mont.
49 Nick Mertes, Defensive End, Edina, Minn.
50 Aaron Held, Snaps, Sacramento, Calif.
51 Tucker Schye, Linebacker, Malta, Mont.
54 Trevor Rehm, Defensive Tackle, Dillon, Mont.
55 Kyle Davis, Defensive Tackle, San Diego, Calif.
56 Alex Thomas, Linebacker, Great Falls, Mont.
57 Shane Cochran, Linebacker, Culbertson, Mont.
58 Tyler Richtmeyer, Linebacker, Missoula, Mont.
60 Jackson Thiebes, Offensive Tackle, Kalispell, Mont.
62 Roscoe Alley, Guard, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
65 Jordan Hines, Offensive Guard, Phoenix, Ariz.
66 Logan Hines, Center, Phoenix, Ariz.

- 67 Ben D'Alton, Defensive Line, Billings, Mont.
68 McCauley Todd, Offensive Guard, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
69 Jared Clard, Offensive Line, San Diego, Calif.
70 Ben Weyer, Guard, Bozeman, Mont.
71 Devon Dietrich, Offensive Tackle, Woodinville, Wash.
72 Trevor Poole, Offensive Tackle, Spokane, Wash.
75 Robert Luke, Center, Tacoma, Wash.
76 David Reese, Offensive Tackle, Clackamas, Ore.
77 Cameron Rokich, Offensive Tackle, West Jordan, Utah
78 Clint LaRowe, Offensive Tackle, Miles City, Mont.
79 Max Kelly, Offensive Guard, Spokane, Wash.
80 Sean Haynes, Wide Receiver, Los Angeles, Calif.
81 Mitch Saylor, Tight End, Vancouver, Wash.
82 Jermaine Jones, Tight End, Oakland, Calif.
83 Ryan Burke, Wide Receiver, Billings, Mont.
84 Kevin Berland, Wide Receiver, Missoula, Mont.
85 Reese Carlson, Wide Receiver, Gig Harbor, Wash.
86 Austin Carver, Wider Receiver, Dillon, Mont.
87 Chris Lider, Kicker, Bellevue, Wash.
88 Stephen Shaw, Punter, Fullerton, Calif.
89 Aschan Richards, Defensive End, Butte, Mont.
90 Bo Harris, Defensive Tackle, Fairfield, Mont.
91 Tyrone Holmes, Defensive End, Eagle Point, Ore.
92 Kole Swartz, Defensive End, Missoula, Mont.
93 Zach Peevey, Defensive Tackle, Missoula, Mont.
94 Harrison Greenberg, Kicker, Lake Oswego, Ore.
95 Tonga Takai, Defensive Tackle, Honolulu, Hawaii
96 Josh Homer, Tight End, Great Falls, Mont.
97 Ryan Johnson, Defensive End, Vancouver, Wash.
98 Mike Ralston, Tight End, Eugene, Ore.
99 Evan Miksich, Defensive End, Lake Stevens, Wash.

JONES

junior, wide receiver

With Ellis Henderson still recovering from a bacterial infection, Jones will be quarterback Jordan Johnson's biggest target against the Wildcats. Montana's second-leading receiver in 2013, Jones caught 42 passes for 760 yards and three touchdowns. Against the Cowboys, he caught three passes for 16 yards.

#6

VAN

senior, running back

Another transfer, Van is in his second year as a Grizzly. The other half to Jordan Canada, Van rushed for 523 yards last season and scored six touchdowns. On Saturday, he was limited to just 19 yards rushing, but caught nine passes for 66 yards, a career-high.

#8

VAN ACKEREN

junior, linebacker

Filling the shoes of linebacker Jordan Tripp is Kendrick Van Ackeren, a Bellevue, Wash. native who transferred to Montana in January 2013. He saw 12 games last fall, and had 29 tackles. Against Wyoming last weekend, Van Ackeren led the Griz with 14 tackles, and one sack.

#35

NELSON

sophomore, quarterback

After missing the first two games of last season, Nelson took over as starter and led the team to a 6-3 record. He threw for 1,282 yards and 13 touchdowns last season, and completed 62 percent of his passes.

#2

DAVIS

junior, cornerback

Davis was named a pre-season All-American by D2Football.com and USA College Football. He started all 11 games for the Wildcats, and led the GNAC with six interceptions last season. He also handles kick return duties, averaging 13 yards per return on punts and 24.9 on kickoffs.

#10

TODD

junior, running back

Standing at just 5-foot-6, Todd was the Wildcats' leading rusher in 2013. He ran for 1,213 yards last season, and found the end zone nine times, ranking him second in the conference. Todd also caught 12 passes for 53 yards.

#22

WILDCATS

1 Austin Pernell, Wide Receiver, Kent, Wash.

2 **Jake Nelson, Quarterback, Lake Stephens, Wash.**

4 Kent McKinney Jr., Wide Receiver, Seattle, Wash.

5 Cedrique Chaney, Defensive Back, Kelso, Wash.

6 Greg Logan, Wide Receiver, Graham, Wash.

7 Cole Graves, Defensive Back, Kirkland, Wash.

8 Justin Lane, Quarterback, Arlington, Wash.

9 Jesse Zalk, Wide Receiver, Battle Ground, Wash.

10 **Isaiah Davis, Defensive Back, Bremerton, Wash.**

11 DeAndre Baines, Defensive Back, Tacoma, Wash.

12 Colin Walsh, Quarterback, Troutdale, Wash.

14 Nate Rauda, Wide Receiver, Seattle, Wash.

15 Justin Peterson, Wide Receiver, Marysville, Wash.

16 Kaben Humphrey-Butler, Wide Receiver, Vancouver, Wash.

17 Jackson Huerta, Wide Receiver, Covington, Wash.

18 Dillon Sugg, Quarterback, Wenatchee, Wash.

19 Anthony Beaver Jr., Defensive Back, San Francisco, Calif.

20 Blake Williams-Miller, Defensive Back, Everett, Wash.

21 Bobby Barnes, Defensive Back, Lacey, Wash.

22 **Jordan Todd, Running Back, Bellevue, Wash.**

23 JoJo Brooks, Linebacker, Seattle, Wash.

24 Ishmael Stinson, Runningback, Tacoma, Wash.

25 Arthur Burns, Running Back, Corona, Calif.

26 Desmond Young, Wide Receiver, Seattle, Wash.

27 Nic Cooper, Running Back, Mukilteo, Wash.

28 Kevin Young, Defensive Back, Tacoma, Wash.

29 Hasani Childs Running Back, University Place, Wash.

30 Quincy Carter, Running Back, Kent, Wash.

31 Christian Gasca, Wide Receiver, Lake Stevens, Wash.

32 Austin Bautista, Defensive Back, Puyallup, Wash.

33 JB Torsy, Linebacker, Mission Viejo, Calif.

34 Melvin Thornton, Running Back, Port Hadlock, Wash.

35 Deion Stell, Defensive Back, Marysville, Wash.

36 Jonathan Kuhn, Punter, Mercer Island, Wash.

37 Sean McDonald, Kicker/Punter, Sammamish, Wash.

39 Gabe Rego, Linebacker, Battle Ground, Wash.

40 Mitch Haldane, Linebacker, Mountlake Terrace, Wash.

42 Drew Wallen, Defensive Back, Auburn, Wash.

43 Korey Young, Linebacker, Machias, Wash.

44 Tovar Sanchez, Defensive Lineman, Seattle, Wash.

45 Grady Graff, Linebacker, Pasco, Wash.

46 Tanner Lucas, Linebacker, Kent, Wash.

47 Elijah Suka, Running Back, Maple Valley, Wash.

47 Joshua Wikel, Defensive Back, Redmond, Wash.

49 Ryan Whitmore, Tight End, Ritzville, Wash.

50 Jason Diffie, Safety, Bakersfield, Calif.

52 James Fakkema, Defensive Lineman, Blaine, Wash.

53 Luke Asbjornsen, Offensive Lineman, Graham, Wash.

54 Kevin Haynes, Linebacker, Battle Ground, Wash.

55 Robbie Long, Offensive Lineman, Sammamish, Wash.

56 Keanu Songcuan, Linebacker, Federal Way, Wash.

57 Bo Banner, Defensive Lineman, Bellingham, Wash.

58 Austin Olson, Defensive Lineman, Renton, Wash.

59 Jake Masters, Kicker/Punter, Kirkland, Wash.

60 Devin McKee, Defensive Back, Woodinville, Wash.

62 BJ Carter, Defensive Lineman, White Center, Wash.

66 Zach Budnick, Offensive Lineman, University Place, Wash.

67 Marshall Green, Offensive Lineman, Tumwater, Wash.

68 Nicholas Streubel, Offensive Lineman, Oak Harbor, Wash.

69 Andrew Ulrich, Offensive Lineman, Chehalis, Wash.

70 Kyle O'Donnell, Offensive Lineman, Stanwood, Wash.

71 Calvin Hoohuli Jr., Offensive Lineman, Pahoa, Hawaii

72 Matt Nilsson, Offensive Lineman, Kirkland, Wash.

73 Josh Stolz, Offensive Lineman, Vancouver, Wash.

74 Brady Lisoski, Offensive Lineman, Redmond, Wash.

75 Samuel Fisher, Offensive Lineman, Enumclaw, Wash.

76 Chandler Streuli, Offensive Lineman, Enumclaw, Wash.

77 James Moore, Offensive Lineman, Tacoma, Wash.

78 Hayden Klein, Offensive Lineman, Olympia, Wash.

79 Tyler Grant, Offensive Lineman, Ridgefield, Wash.

80 Jerret Hursey, Wide Receiver, Olympia, Wash.

81 Marcel Morris, Wide Receiver, Auburn, Wash.

82 Aaron McQuiad, Wide Receiver, Chelan, Wash.

83 Marcel King, Wide Receiver, Boise, Idaho

84 Joshua Eckwood, Wide Receiver, Tacoma, Wash.

85 Brian O'Donnell, Tight End, Stanwood, Wash.

86 Brady Pahukoa, Tight End, Lake Stevens, Wash.

87 Tyler Stumph, Tight End, Tacoma, Wash.

88 Kyle Self, Tight End, Vaughn, Wash.

89 Colter Clinch, Tight End, Bothell, Wash.

90 De'Juan Ransaw, Defensive Lineman, Seattle, Wash.

91 Winslow, Koiassi, Defensive End

92 Bryan Butler, Defensive Lineman, Mill Creek, Wash.

93 Brett Carter, Defensive Lineman Tacoma, Wash.

94 Ryan Secondi, Defensive Lineman, Ellensburg, Wash.

95 Moni Ioane, Defensive Lineman, Seattle, Wash.

96 Carson Kass, Defensive Lineman, Nanches, Wash.

97 Matt Miller, Defensive Lineman, Spokane, Wash.

98 Elisah Pa'aga, Defensive Lineman, Tukwila, Wash.

99 Nicholas Aumua, Defensive Lineman, Auburn, Wash.

WAGENMANN WORKS

ANDY BIXLER

Montana Kaimin

Zack Wagenmann feels like he's been here forever.

The 22-year-old is starting his fifth year of college, and man, can he feel it.

"I've been doing this a while," Wagenmann said. "My knees, they're getting old. I feel 'em creaking all the time."

But he didn't look old on Saturday. He ripped and he rolled, swam and swarmed, and generally caused havoc all afternoon in the Grizzlies' season-opener against Wyoming, coming away with two sacks and a pass breakup to go along with his seven tackles.

He's strong, he's fast and he's entering his senior season as a Montana Grizzly, poised to become one of the best pass rushers in Grizzly history. His two sacks on Saturday give him 22 for his career. The record is 32.5, held by Tim Bush. If Wagenmann continues at this pace, he'll break the record by October.

That comes with some lofty expectations. Wagenmann has appeared on nearly every preseason FCS honor list, including being named a preseason All-American by The Sports Network.

He's considered one of the favorites to win the Buck Buchanan Award, given to the best defensive player in the FCS. He's already ranked seventh all-time in career sacks in UM history, but he's not letting it get to him.

"The only pressures there are, you put there yourself," Wagenmann said. "I try not to let it stress me out, but I'm not going to lie, it can be stressful if I let it. So I choose not to let it."

After Montana's first game, a 17-12 loss against the Wyoming Cowboys last Saturday, that appears true.

"Zack is someone who has a lot of talent," head coach Mick Delaney said. "He's worked real hard to put himself into the position he's in, and now that it's time to go and get after it, he's getting the rewards

for that hard work."

A Missoula native, Wagenmann didn't take football seriously until his junior year of high school, though he did play (he doesn't know where reports of him not taking up the game until age 17 came from). He previously considered himself a basketball player.

When he was offered a partial scholarship to play for his hometown team, Wagenmann had to concede that maybe he was a football player.

He joined the team in 2010, weighing around 200 pounds. After redshirting his first year and working out his redshirt freshman year, Wagenmann came out of nowhere as a sophomore to record a team-high 11.5 sacks and 13 tackles for loss.

He weighed in at 240 pounds then, and was still growing.

The muscle gain helped, but even more impressive than his dedication to protein shakes and steak dinners was his dedication to learning defensive schemes.

Wagenmann says he studied every night, learning exactly where to be and when to be there, but most importantly why.

"I really started to understand my place in the system," Wagenmann said. "I was undersized when I came in, but I took pride in knowing the playbook and the reasons behind the philosophy."

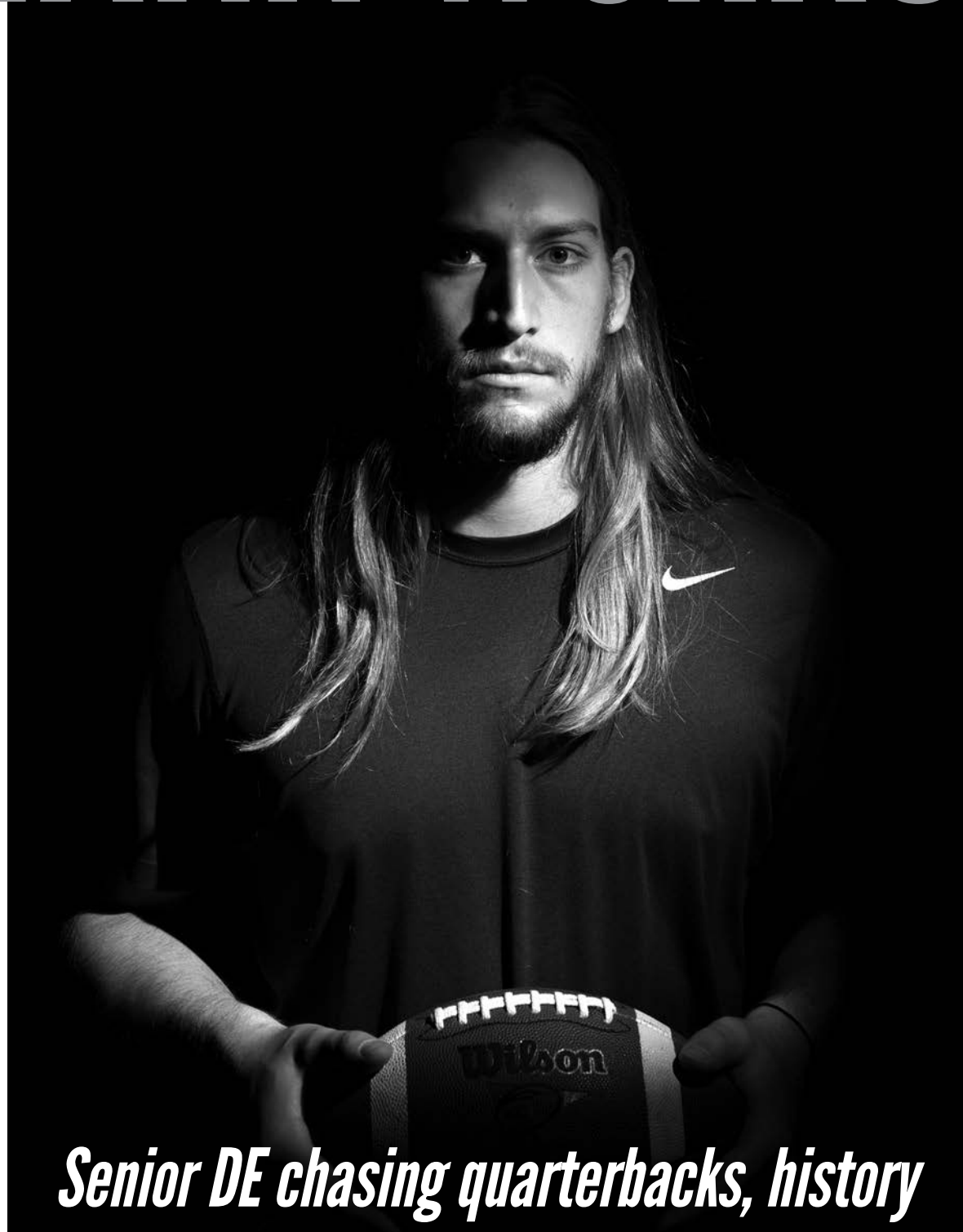
If 2012 was a breakout, 2013 was more of the same.

His 8.5 sacks, 16.5 tackles for loss, and an All-Big Sky first team selection solidified Wagenmann as one of the best defenders in the FCS.

"As a defender, he's one of the best, not just at this level but at any level," Grizzly defensive line coach Lawrence Suauna said. "He's long, he's lanky and explosive, and he gets the job done."

His game is styled after another Big Sky Conference defensive end: Jared Allen, who starred for the Idaho State Bengals before embarking on a five-time Pro Bowl NFL career. Allen is larger than Wagenmann (he stands at 6-foot-6, while Wagenmann is 6-foot-3), but the two share a remarkable quality — an innate ability to find the quarterback.

"That shows up in his stat



Senior DE chasing quarterbacks, history

Gracie Ryan/Montana Kaimin

box, which is always impressive," Suauna said. "The pressure he brings off the side is tremendous, but more importantly, he often draws a lot of attention, getting double or triple teamed. That leaves someone else with an opportunity to rush the passer, so he influences the game even when it doesn't show up statistically."

Delaney has a more simple theory about what makes him so tough to contain.

"He's strong and quick, and when you throw those two things together, you get results," Delaney said.

The accolades are all good and

fine for Wagenmann. He said he pays attention to them, but doesn't let them define him.

"They're just a by-product of what we've achieved as a team," Wagenmann said.

In a press conference last week, he said he would be just as happy standing on the sidelines of today's game, cheering on his teammates and coaching, as he would be playing.

"To me, the only thing that matters is that we win," Wagenmann said. "I don't care about the stats or where I am on the all-time list. I know where I am, of course. It's hard not to. But if I had to pick

between being the all-time sack leader or winning a national championship, it wouldn't even be a choice."

For an old, aged (collegiate) defensive end, it's hard to care about things like stats and personal legacy.

There is one bit of history he does care about, however. The No. 37 jersey, a number handed down to a Montana-born defensive player, was given to him last spring by Jordan Tripp.

"It's an honor," Wagenmann said of wearing the jersey. "A total honor. I just hope I live up to it."

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MATCHUP from page 3

LINEBACKERS

Perhaps Montana's biggest void to fill on defense is in the linebacking corps. But if the game against Wyoming is any indicator, the Griz will be all right. Junior Kendrick Van Ackeren recorded a career high 14 tackles against Wyoming, while teammates Herbert Gamboa and Jeremiah Kose who had 10 and seven tackles, respectively.

Similarly, CWU lost their leading linebacker, but return a more than capable trio. JB Torsy will anchor the group after finishing third on the team with 64 total tackles last year, along with juniors JoJo Brooks and Mitch Haldane. With both teams replacing defensive leaders, this proves to be an interesting matchup.

Advantage: Toss up

SECONDARY

Perhaps the most even matchup on both sides of the ball, the defensive backs on both UM and CWU have the ability to make big plays. Senior free safety Matt Hermanson leads a Montana secondary that finished eighth in the Big Sky Conference last year in total pass defense.

On the other side, the Wildcats are led by preseason D II All-American Isaiah Davis who led the GNAC in interceptions last season with six.

Advantage: Toss up

Both teams have play makers on each side of the ball, although the experience in the secondaries may turn it into more of a ground-and-pound game. In that case, the Grizzly backfield will prove to be too much to handle. After an impressive defensive showing last week against FBS Wyoming, the Montana defense should hold form. Griz win in the long run, 30-17.

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IN ENEMY TERRITORY

Shoemaker makes headcoaching debut

EVAN THOMPSON
For the Kaimin

While one era for the Wildcats will continue, another one is set to begin.

Second-year starting quarterback Jake Nelson and first-year head coach Ian Shoemaker will have their hands full when they take on Montana on Saturday in Central's season opener.

Whether it's an advantage or disadvantage — considering the Wildcats have yet to play this season — Nelson and his teammates probably learned a few things from watching Montana lose on television to Wyoming, 17-12.

Perhaps their biggest takeaway was the fact that the Cowboys only passed for 92 yards and threw one interception against the Grizzlies' defense, while rushing for 209 yards and two touchdowns.

Nelson, a second-year starter who led the Wildcats to a 6-3 overall record in 2013 - will try to run a new, mixed-tempo, multiple set offense in Central's season opener against the No. 4-ranked Grizzlies at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Nelson completed 124 of 199 passes for 1,282 yards and 13 touchdowns in his freshman year after becoming Central's full-time starter three weeks into the season.

Second-team All-Great Northwest Athletic Conference sophomore wide receiver Jesse Zalk will likely be Nelson's favorite target from the slot after catching 47 passes for 429 yards and two touchdowns in 2013. The 5-foot-8,

160-pound Zalk is also a skilled kick returner; his 31 yards per return average was second-best in the conference.

Senior receiver Greg Logan will also be a crucial component on the outside after finishing with 25 receptions for 356 yards and two touchdowns in 2013.

But none will be more critical for the balanced offense than first-team all-GNAC running back Jordan Todd. Todd has played in 19 games in two seasons for the Wildcats and rushed for 1,213 yards and nine touchdowns over just nine starts in 2013. He's also a threat in the passing game; he caught 12 passes for 57 yards last season.

Against a Grizzlies' offense that went to the air 45 times against the Cowboys in Week 1, the Wildcats will need a solid performance out of one of Division II's best corner-back tandem in junior corners Isaiah Davis and Cedrique Chaney.

Davis, who was named a D2Football.com and USA College Football preseason All-American, started all 11 games in 2013 and led the GNAC with six interceptions. He also finished 35 solo tackles, which was fifth-best on the team.

Chaney had four interceptions in 2012, and finished with 28 solo tackles and 11 passes defended in 2013.

The Wildcats return five starters on defense, including four all-conference players.

Both Davis and Zalk are key to the Wildcats' return game. Zalk averaged 31 yards per kick return

last season and finished with 403 yards and one touchdown.

Davis was the GNAC's top punt returner last season, averaging 13 yards per return, while finishing fourth in kick returns with an average of 24.9.

Sophomore kicker Sean McDonald converted 8 of 13 field goals in 2013. His biggest came on Homecoming against Dixie State on Oct. 12, 2013, when he hit a 44-yard field goal to win the game.

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		5		8				
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Level: **1 2**
3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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4	7	6	5	3	8	1	2	9
3	8	2	1	9	6	7	5	4
8	9	3	6	1	5	2	4	7
5	2	7	9	4	3	6	8	1
6	1	4	7	8	2	5	9	3
7	6	1	8	5	9	4	3	2
2	4	8	3	6	7	9	1	5
9	3	5	4	2	1	8	7	6

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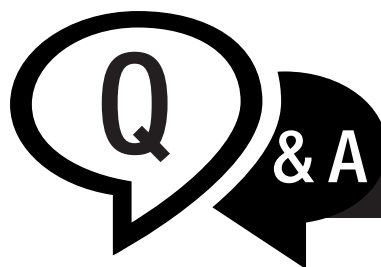


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JORDAN CANADA

UM Running Back

JOSHUA THOMAS
Montana Kaimin

Since 2011, Jordan Canada has been attacking gaps and scoring touchdowns for the University of Montana Grizzlies. Coming into this season, he is ranked fourth all-time in school history in rushing yards, and was elected co-captain of the offense alongside quarterback Jordan Johnson. Kaimin Sports sat down with Jordan to discuss his final season.

Montana Kaimin: What are some of the goals you've personally set for yourself this season?

Jordan Canada: I definitely want to have a winning season. I also want to make sure I'm a strong captain on offense. All of our captains that have had that role always did a great job being leaders, so I want to continue on that legacy. Then, at the end of the season, make the playoffs.

MK: In the last game against Wyoming, the Cowboys really made an effort to stop the run. What does the team know about Central Washington's defense, and how are you looking to exploit that?

JC: On defense, they like to run sort of a weird flex front. It leaves plenty of holes for the pass and run, so I'm gonna be looking to attack aggressively.

MK: Are there any games on the schedule that you have circled? Besides Griz-Cat of course.

JC: I'm really looking forward to all of them the same. Except the Eastern (Washington University) game. They have been the bane of my existence since I came here, so I want to get a win over them.

MK: What have been some of the most memorable moments throughout your Griz career?

JC: Watching Peter Nguyen make some crazy runs. Personally a moment for me, though, would be my first touchdown that came against Tennessee (in 2011).

MK: I've heard rumblings around campus that you are a big gamer. True?

JC: Oh yeah.

MK: Are you Team Xbox or Team Playstation?

JC: Gotta be Xbox. Halo, Call



Photo courtesy of Meghan Nolt

Jordan Canada is a senior at the University of Montana and starts at running back for the Grizzlies.

of Duty, Skyrim, Fallout. I love them all.

MK: What music have you been listening to lately?

JC: A lot of James Blake. I like Childish Gambino, Kendrick (Lamar). I actually have gone back and been listening to Amy Winehouse lately, too.

MK: Do you have any pre-game rituals?

JC: Not really anything special. I eat a light breakfast, listen to music all day. I like to take 30-45 minutes, like even when I'm getting taped up before the game, and I like to read. I've been reading Game of Thrones and the Inheritance Cycle.

MK: What professional teams do you like to rep?

JC: I've never really been into the pro stuff. Even coming from California, I've never been a Laker fan or anything

like that. I can respect the Clippers, though. I do like LeBron, so wherever he goes. Him and Kevin Love are gonna tear it up in Cleveland.

MK: Your birthday is coming up on September 16th. What's the best and worst gifts you've received in the past?

JC: I can't really think of a worst gift. The best gift I ever got though was one birthday when I really wanted the Xbox 360 when it had come out. My mom said I couldn't get it, she never bought video games for gifts. I never had the money to buy one. Then one day I came downstairs for school and she had bought my Xbox and left it on the table. I didn't want to go to school that day, I just wanted to play.

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PREVIEW from page 2

However, the rush protection was noticeably thin. Wyoming held Van and Montana to just 42 rushing yards last week. Three sophomores, Devon Dietrich, Jackson Thiebes and Ben Weyer, join twins Logan and Jordan Hines as the new blocking crew for senior quarterback Jordan Johnson.

"I think the biggest thing for us now is just fundamentals," said Logan, the veteran of the group with eight career starts. "Technique is big for us, we just practice that a lot in fall camp and just what we need to be a better offensive line."

The center believes his group's experience will grow while the underclassmen take time in the film room and build off the mistakes from last week, when Wyoming held Montana

to just 253 total offensive yards. "Communication and that will be the biggest thing this week," Hines said. "I know it starts with me."

Another missing factor for the Griz was the elusive Ellis Henderson, who only got a few looks last Saturday, pulling down five catches for 48 yards. Delaney confirmed Henderson could see more time against CWU, but still won't be healthy enough for a full return. Montana's leading receiver in 2013, Henderson is still recovering from a bacterial infection.

"Maybe in the neighborhood of 10-20 plays," Delaney said.

The Griz will face the Wildcats at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday in Washington-Grizzly Stadium. Next week they'll host the three-time reigning FCS champs, North Dakota State University.

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